

Bates calls state pesticide policy a shambles'

By JEFF CHESTER
ALBANY — Assemblyman Thomas Bates (D-Oakland) said this week that California agri-business knows nothing about the effects of pesticides on humans and called the state's pesticide policy "a shambles."

Bates was one of the specialists and politicians who gave harsh reports on poisons in urban food and water at a conference held here Saturday at the Albany Middle School and the UC-Berkeley Gill Tract on "Alternatives to Urban Pesticide Use."

Bates, who gave the keynote address, told the audience that as "an urban legislator" he hadn't expected to be involved with pesticide and water issues, leaving these concerns to "representatives of the valley."

Bates said he became involved in these environmental issues after he observed that agri-business and its lobbyists "had no concept of the ramifications in the use of pesticides." He said that state has "no comprehensive (pesticide) policy, no direction and no leadership."

Bates said his research found that each person in the state receives about 24 pounds of pesticide per year in the food they buy. In addition, many pesticides banned for use in the U.S. show up again here on imported fruit and vegetables, he said. Bates added that many of these pesticides are known to cause cancer or birth defects but maintained that "only about half are insecticides properly or get held by authorities."

Bates blamed Assemblyman Willie Brown (D-San Francisco) for conceding to the agri-business lobby

since he became speaker of the Assembly two years ago. He said Brown made a deal with Carol Haller (R-Atascadero), Assembly minority leader, for the speakership and has been giving concessions to the \$14 billion farm industry. Bates also noted that "until recently, Haller's husband was a chief lobbyist for the pesticide industry."

Bates, calling us a society "hooked on pesticide poisons," blasted several colleagues who have presented bills that would weaken state pesticide policy. He gave examples of four bills that would exempt pesticides from the Environmental Water Quality Act by stripping local water quality control boards authority on streams and rivers to regulate pesticide levels; removing the labeling information requirement on certain products; and making more difficult a review

of pesticide effects by the State Department of Food and Agriculture.

Bates called for new legislation that would examine the health and safety of both worker and consumer-related pesticide problems. He was critical of industries using federal safety levels "that don't reflect California eating patterns." Federal guidelines have individuals eating far fewer fruits and vegetables than the average Californian, he said.

Bates also criticized the agri-business industry for reducing "the number of varieties of fruits and vegetables" and said business should be more concerned with "people more than profits."

Steve Dreistadt, of the Citizens for a Better Environment, criticized the state Medfly eradication policy.

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E.C.ology could move to Berkeley

By ARLENE EAGAN

EL CERRITO — The city, which is considering relocating its E.C.ology Recycling Center to Berkeley, is negotiating terms of purchase with the Berkeley Community Conservation Center.

Del Witherell, the city's director of community services who also oversees E.C.ology, said a professional accounting service will assess E.C.ology's revenue and evaluate the proposed by the Berkeley Center. The Berkeley Community

Conservation Center has received \$290,000 from the State Solid Waste Management Board for development of a recycling center at Second and Gilman Streets.

"Normal policy, if a recycling center goes under, is that the state takes the equipment back and allows other people to bid on it," Witherell said. "If this program is sold to Berkeley, all the equipment goes to Berkeley" with it."

Previously, Berkeley and El Cerrito had applied to the State Solid Waste Management Board to combine state grant money to buy a paper baler.

"They turned us down. It's illogical," Witherell said.

E.C.ology received a \$75,000 state grant and is awaiting a response from the state regarding the amount of flexibility it has in using it. If the program is sold to Berkeley, the grant is returned to the state general fund.

Grant money could be used to purchase a conveyor system to sort recyclable materials. Witherell said it is possible the system would increase participation in the program by eliminating the need for residents to sort recyclable materials. This proposal was set aside until plans for relocation have been finalized.

E.C.ology is a public agency run by the community services department. The center handles 250 tons a day and many employees are part of a rehabilitation program.

Witherell said profits from buy-back of recyclable materials no longer subsidizes the curbside pickup program. About 50 percent of single-family homes in El Cerrito leave recyclables out for curbside pick-up at least once a month.

At a recent meeting of the El Cerrito City Council and the Environmental Quality Commission, Witherell said curbside pickup could be

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UC-Berkeley may close Gill Tract

By JEFF CHESTER

ALBANY — A UC-Berkeley official says the university is considering closing the Gill Tract, an agricultural experiment station here, to low-cost faculty housing, the newspaper learned.

Donald Dahisten, chairman of Berkeley's Department of Biological Control, which operates the tract, said that "closing the tract is mentioned as a possibility at a faculty meeting one month ago."

Dahisten said he hopes that the Gill Tract will remain "an open space for valuable research" and that UC saves energy and money by moving the facility close to campus.

Dorothy Walker, UC coordinator of physical plant operations, denied that the Gill Tract was being considered for housing.

Walker, calling the building of faculty housing on the site "highly unlikely," did say that UC was currently re-examining "all the land owned by the university in north Berkeley and Albany."

Witherell said profits from buy-back of recyclable materials no longer subsidizes the curbside pickup program. About 50 percent of single-family homes in El Cerrito leave recyclables out for curbside pick-up at least once a month.

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Getting there is half the fun

By ROBERTA ALEXANDER

There are cures for them old commuter blues aside from starting a business in your basement.

If your company had a commute coordinator, you might discover some options besides driving your lone self, and so the Metropolitan Transportation Commission (MTC) begins a series of classes this month to train commute coordinators.

According to Shanna O'Hare of MTC's Commute Alternatives Program, the training is intended for employees of companies with 500 or more workers at a given site, but is based on a manual that can be used by smaller businesses as well.

The most obvious alternative for commuters is public transit. O'Hare said that employers can do a number of things to make public transportation more convenient for employees.

"One company on the Peninsula built a bus shelter, because their employees wanted a place to wait and they didn't want to wait until the county got around to it," O'Hare said.

She said that three bus lines had previously served that location, and that now there were nine lines, for which O'Hare credited an aggressive commute coordinator.

"She went to the bus line and said, 'we've got 100 people who live in such-and-such an area, and they would take the bus if there was service on that route!'" O'Hare said with satisfaction.

Employers can also sell transit tickets and passes at the work site or offer incentives to employees who use public transportation.

Another alternative is car- or vanpooling. A carpool usually rotates the driving responsibility among its members.

UC-Berkeley has over 200 registered carpools whose members are rewarded by reduced parking fees. If the carpool has five or more members, parking is free. Children's Hospital in San Francisco also provides free parking for carpoolers.

RIDES for Bay Area Commuters (863-9588) offers rider-matching for commuters who live near each other and work in the same location. One of the jobs of a commute coordinator is to match up people in the company.

"People are often reluctant to ride with 'strangers,'" O'Hare said.

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Halloween face painters

Well-known face painter Sarah Tomato, right, paid a recent visit to the north branch of the Berkeley Public Library in the Thousand Oaks neighborhood to show kids how to

make whimsical and scary faces for Halloween. Here, she puts the finishing touches on Demian Britton, age 11. More photos, Page 9.

—Times Journal photo by Michael Russell

He's teacher of the year

By DON McCORMACK

EL CERRITO — Sanford Berman has some advice for parents and students that falls into the category of straight talk from one who should know:

Try to get the best teacher possible.

"A good teacher in a farmhouse will do better than a poor one in the Taj Mahal," he says.

Berman, 47, by all accounts, is a great teacher. The El Cerrito High School instructor, along with nine others, has been nominated as Contra Costa's Teacher of the Year, an honor in itself.

And one that sits a bit uneasy on his shoulders. There are many good teachers in the Richmond Unified School District, he says.

How does a teacher attain the status of great?

Berman, who has taught in the district for 24 years, concluded early in his career that, in a manner of speaking, he was placed on earth to teach. His father, who sold shoes and surplus goods, tried to interest him in sales but "the more I was around the business world, the less I liked it."

No hangdog looks afflict Berman when he talks about education, a profession nowadays that has more than its share of detractors. Neither do mealy words pass his lips in defense of what he thinks should not have to be defended: teaching is an honorable pursuit, fully deserving of the best in American talent.

Berman teaches advanced math, algebra and calculus, marketable skills in this age of computers.

"I would never," he declares,

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Sanford Berman

Kay Rabin sworn in by board

By ROBERTA ALEXANDER
ALBANY — The Board of Education is up to full strength again, as newly selected member Kay Rabin was sworn in at last week's meeting.

After taking the oath, Rabin joined her colleagues in discussion, but does not get voting privileges for 30 days, in case a petition is filed challenging her selection.

After a spirited discussion, the board approved a brief motion joining with the state in officially acknowledging Oct. 19 through 23 as "California Safe Schools Week."

The original resolution, as presented by Superintendent Stephen Goldstone, was much longer. Among other things, it said that "insufficient attention (was) devoted to the reduction of crime on school campuses," and that "the last 10 Gallup polls on education have indicated discipline to be the primary concern of citizens."

The resolution was issued by the California attorney general's office, which also plans a public service announcement campaign on radio and television.

Board member Jerry Brunetti confessed to being disturbed by the proposed resolution. He noted that the district did have a problem with vandalism, but not with violent crime.

"Even if we were, I couldn't support this (resolution)," Brunetti said.

He questioned the usefulness of passing such a resolution and objected both to the inclusion of the Gallup poll findings and to the linkage of discipline and crime. Brunetti also saw a connection between the resolution and the Attorney General's campaign for the governorship.

"I'd like safe schools as much as the next person, but this doesn't seem the way to go about it," he said.

Rabin objected to the resolution because she felt it was misleading. "I thought school safety meant getting to and from school safely," she said.

Board president Jean Tenret said that he thought the purpose of the resolution was to draw attention to the problem.

"Then we might as well have moral fiber week," Brunetti responded.

"I think we ought to be cautious about being smug. We need to be vigilant in regard to violence," Goldstone said. "The potential is here."

Brunetti agreed, but asked again, "Is this resolution the best way to deal with that potential?"

Board member Robert Nehls stressed the district's problem with vandalism: "It costs us a lot of dollars for vandalism. People would be surprised," he said.

Last year there were a dozen separate incidents of vandalism at Marin School.

Nehls suggested approving a very brief resolution which simply acknowledged "Safe Schools Week," and the motion was passed.

In other business, the board accepted a \$9,650 check from the Bank of America, which was awarded to the district for a career awareness program.

The money will be used for

(Continued on Page 4)

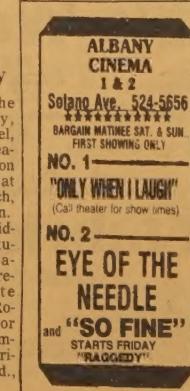
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Around city hall

The high cost of clean streets

By JAMES ALLEN, JR.

Mayor

EL CERRITO — Street sweeping in one of the less visible casualties of inflation and shrinking city budgets. In prior years, the city has swept residential streets on a monthly schedule and the commercial areas and area around the high school on almost a daily basis. But over the last few years, the schedule has diminished to almost nothing. Both equipment failure and lack of operating personnel are to blame.

Our present sweeper, now about 12 years old, cost \$16,000 when new. Comparable equipment today costs \$80,000. Twelve years ago, our street and park maintenance crew numbered 24. Today, our street and park maintenance forces have been reduced to 11. As a result of old equipment and other demands on maintenance personnel, street sweeping has become a part-time activity over these intervening years.

To be expected, our aging equipment has been more subject to breakdown; repairs have been frequent. In fact, in 1980-81, the sweeper was available for use only 27 days during the fiscal year. Such condition of the street sweeping machine has a direct impact on the frequency and quality of service. In 1979, an independent audit of city maintenance operations noted that "the sweeper is a maintenance headache and not used very much — 25 percent of the time at most. It may not be worthwhile to maintain and replace the equipment." The report concluded that it would be more advisable to contract with an outside provider for service.

Street sweeping obviously has environmental benefits, but it is more than providing clean streets. Accumulated debris left in the streets clogs the storm drains during rain storms and traps standing water. This condition over time deteriorates pavement and raises the ultimate cost of street repairs. Street sweeping also keeps down dust and dirt, removes rubbish and other materials from gutters, and makes the city as a whole

more livable. And even in an economic sense, it is a most worthwhile preventive maintenance service.

We face three alternatives regarding street sweeping services: (1) contract for service from an independent operator; (2) purchase new equipment at a cost of about \$80,000; or (3) continue with our present equipment and limited service. The last alternative, which is not providing adequate levels of cleaning, only delays a decision on the first two. It is apparent that our budget cannot afford to purchase a new sweeper and hire another maintenance worker to operate it. Even the first alternative would require some means of financing the cost of a contract for street sweeping services.

The benefit of street sweeping can be shared by everyone in just about the same manner. The cost of the service could be spread equally by a service charge added to the garbage rate. Such charge, however, would be more for commercial establishments than for residents because the sweeping frequency would be greater if we follow past practice.

To explore means of reliable street sweeping, the City Council asked East Bay Sanitary Company, our local franchised garbage collector, to submit a proposal for furnishing street sweeping service, the cost of which would be included in the garbage rate. The proposal received includes monthly sweeping of residential areas, three-times weekly for the commercial areas, and emergency sweeping on an on-call basis as needed. The suggested allocation of cost is \$45 per month for residents and \$6 to \$12.50 per month for businesses (depending on size). We have asked city staff to contact other street sweeping providers to obtain other proposals for comparison and consideration.

Street sweeping is far more than cosmetic. There are very real environmental and street maintenance benefits for us all. Demands on the city budget do not allow us to invest in the equipment necessary for the city to provide this service.

Room open at day care

EL CERRITO — The city of El Cerrito is operating a child care center at Canyon Trail Park this fall.

The site is across the street from El Monte School. The children participate in sports, crafts, games and interest clubs during the hours of care.

A nutritional snack is offered during the afternoon. There are still spaces available for both morning and afterschool care.

Hours of operation are 7:30-8:30 a.m. and 2-6 p.m. For more information concerning this program contact Barbara Schulz, Children's Services Supervisor at 525-6747.



— Photo courtesy of Pat Barrassi Anderson

Historians plan 2nd Italian dinner

ALBANY — The Albany Historical Society will sponsor its second annual Italian Dinner Dance on Sunday, Nov. 1, at the Fratellenza Club, 1140 66th St., Oakland.

Catherine Webb of the historical society said the event was held locally last year but will be held in the larger facility this year by popular request.

"All those who attended last year requested a larger hall so they could invite their many family members who consider Albany their hometown."

Tony Barrassi of Sonoma will again be master of ceremonies. Last year, he and his sister, Pat Barrassi Anderson of Richmond, rounded up more than 50 of their relatives for the dinner.

Louis Volcado will play music for dancing. The dinner will be catered by Lucille Sabatini, with roast beef,

wine and a full array of Italian specialties. The hour will begin at 5:30 p.m. with dinner and entertainment, call Grace Charantano at 526-2115.

Special guests will include Art and Betty the Italian-American Association and John Prendergast of the Fratellenza Men's Club, and Webb said the historians established the dinner to honor Albany's long Italian heritage.

After the 1980 San Francisco earthquake, Italian families moved across the bay to Albany in one-room houses. As the families grew, the town too.

"The family-oriented culture of the Italians even though many Albany families come from the world today."

Puppetry class planned

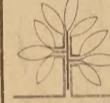
puppetry classes will be offered through the Albany & Recreation Dept. Wednesdays at the Albany Center, 1123-8th St.

Six one-hour classes will be offered on the last day of the month. For children 4-6 years, 7-12 years, 3:30-4:30 p.m.

Instructor Frances Baruch has taught creative classes for children for many years and has done impersonations for Bugs Bunny and Looney Tunes and in radio and television commercials.

Puppets will be provided. Fee: \$15 for adults; \$17.50 for non-residents.

For more information, call 644-8514.



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Swim fund-raiser set for E.C. pool

EL CERRITO — Following the simple logic that the way to save a community swimming pool is to get people into it, a SOP-a-Thon has been arranged for Saturday at the El Cerrito Swim Center.

Participants will include members of the El Cerrito USA Swimming Team and adult recreation swimmers, who will be churning under the banner of the Save Our Pool Committee, the ad hoc group organized to stall a threatened closure of the pool in January and possibly beyond.

The event, from 10 a.m. to 6 p.m., will follow the program of the Gators' regular fund-raising swim-a-thon, by this time the money will go to the City of El Cerrito to help erase an anticipated \$10,000 imbalance in the City Center's budget for the current fiscal year.

The financial crisis was caused by a Richmond Unified School District decision to end its contract with the for physical education swim instruction at the center.

The action raised the possibility that the pool might be closed November through February to compensate for the expected drop in revenue.

The threatened closure brought an alarmed reaction from both the Gators and participants in the Swim Center's Adult Lap Swimming program. Representatives of two groups held an emergency meeting and formed a Save Our Pool Committee.

Naming former Gator coach and ex-city aquatic supervisor Leigh Johnson chairman, the group drew up recommendations of its own, asking the City Council to assure that the pool be opened in January and support a fund-raising effort to offset the expected deficit.

The council agreed to the concessions while adopting a modified swim schedule for October proposed by the Parks and Recreation Commission.

The SOP-a-Thon is the result, and members of the youth and adult lap swimmers are now soliciting sponsors to back them in the effort.

The pool will be closed Nov. 6 through December for winter work and normal maintenance.

The Save Our Pool Committee is considering the possibility of other fund-raisers during those months if necessary to offset the budget imbalance.

City seeks recycling aid

ALBANY — The city of Albany is looking for volunteers to serve on a committee to be formed to develop policies regarding recycling of solid waste material.

Anyone interested in serving on such committee, call administration office of City Hall at 644-8544.

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Churches

THOUSAND OAKS Epworth United Methodist Church

Worship is at 10 a.m. Sunday, with a program for youth during the service. Coffee and fellowship follow the service, with Sunday school classes for all ages at 11:15. Care is provided for younger children during the morning.

An all-church Halloween party will be held Friday, Oct. 30, from 6 to 8:30 p.m. There will be a potluck, games and a haunted house.

Reservations are being taken for a potluck dinner on Nov. 6 at the church. Hugh Wire, west coast director for Church World Service, will speak and show slides of Central America.

Thousand Oaks Baptist Church
"How Do We Handle Criticism?" will be the topic of the Rev. Eugene Paden's message at the 10:30 a.m. worship service on Sunday, Oct. 25. The scripture reading will be taken from Matthew 7:13.

The kids choir, under the direction of Pastor Paden, will sing two numbers, and there will be a children's sermon. Jerry Lockwood, tenor, will sing a solo. Rev. David L. Chen will bring a message in Mandarin to the Chinese congregation at the 10:30 service.

Church school classes for all ages are held at 9:30 on Sunday mornings. Classes in English are held for children, youth, and young adults. Classes in English and Mandarin are held for adults.

At 7 p.m. on Sunday night, Oct. 25, there will be a sacred concert at the church given by John Patton, lyric tenor, with Jim Berling accompanying him on the organ. Patton has studied music and voice at the University of the Pacific and at the Juilliard School of Music. The public is invited to attend this concert.

On Wednesday, Oct. 28, there will be a kid's choir rehearsal at the church at 5 p.m. All children from kin-

dergarten through eighth grade ages are invited to join this group. At 6:15 p.m. there will be a Family Potluck Supper followed by a quarterly business meeting of the church. Adult choir rehearsal begins at 7:45 p.m.

ALBANY United Methodist Church

Sunday, Oct. 25, is Reformation Sunday. Services at 11 a.m. with worship leader Shirley White. Clay Berling will speak on "Yours, Mine and Ours." Church school is at 10 a.m. At noon, the Esther Circle will serve a potluck luncheon.

On Tuesday and Thursday, the Toddlers Play Group will meet 9:30-11:30. The adult Bible class meets Tuesday at 11 a.m. The quilters meet on Wednesday at 9:30 a.m. and the prayer group meets at 12:30.

The fall bazaar will be held Saturday 10-3 with lunch 11:30-1: Cost: Adults \$3.50, children \$1.50.

The church is located at 980 Stannage Ave., Albany.

First Baptist Church of Albany

Tonight at 7:30 p.m. the home Bible study class will meet at 1200 Everett St., El Cerrito. The study will be on Romans 14. Friday night at 7:30 the young married couples fellowship will meet at 929 Pomona, Albany.

At 11 a.m. Sunday, Alan Stroud, a student at the American Baptist Seminary of the West, will speak on the theme, "Christians and Strong Principles." This will be preceded at 9:30 by church school for all ages. And at 6:30 p.m. the pray and praise service will be held.

All activities are open to the public. All are welcome to come to the church at 1319 Solano Ave., Albany. The phone number is 526-6632.

St. Alban's Episcopal Church

Wednesday, Oct. 14, at 11:30 a.m. the Rev. Warren Debenham will celebrate Holy Communion and admin-

ister the "laying on of hands." A meeting of the St. Anne's Guild will follow.

On Oct. 25, the 20th Sunday after Pentecost, John Mangels, a seminarist from the Church Divinity School of the Pacific, will preach at both services. Penny James will be the lector. Those who wish to receive the "laying

(Continued on Page 18)

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Churches

(Continued from Page 17)

"on hands" may go to the back of the church after communion. The coffee hour will be hosted by the St. Anne's Guild.

The church is located at 1501 Washington Ave., al-

EL CERRITO

Northminster Presbyterian Church

On Reformation Sunday, Oct. 25, the annual Reformation Day service will be held at 10 a.m. with the Luther-

an Community of the Resurrection. The Rev. Hugh Burroughs will preach. Children will stay for the entire service. A coffee hour will follow.

The church is located at 545 Ashbury Ave., El Cerrito. Phone 524-4401.

Mr. and Mrs. Paul Higley; Mr. and Mrs. Royal Thompson will serve as deacons in charge.

The newly-formed Northside Christain Singles group will meet at 7:30 p.m., Sunday. This group is open to all single young people and offers an opportunity for them to meet others in an informal atmosphere and to help develop the group.

The annual meeting of the church will be on Friday, Oct. 30, at 7:30 p.m., and be preceded by a pot-luck supper. The main agenda items will be election of officers and adoption of the budget.

Temple Baptist Church
Rev. Phil Reed will conduct the Sunday service at 11:00 a.m. worship. Sunday school will begin at 11 a.m., a new time, including a men's fellowship taught by Glenn Hatzell. Sunday evening services will begin at 7 p.m.

There will be a Halloween potluck, followed by practice, at Tweed Hall tonight, Oct. 21, at 6:30 p.m. A choir is practicing Christmas music. A Halloween party will be at Tweed Hall this Saturday.

The church is located at 1960 Carlson Boulevard Annex. The phone number is 525-9103.

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